

Direct Testimony of Matt Johnson

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

2 A. My name is Matt Johnson. My address is PO Box 730, Springfield, IL 62705.

4 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?**

5 A. I attended Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in
6 Political Science, and graduated from the James Millikin Scholars Honors program. I have held
7 several assignments in the telecommunications industry since 1999. From 1999-2003, I was
8 Specialist – Regulatory and Governmental Affairs with GTE/Verizon. From 2003– 2011, I was
9 Manager – Regulatory and Government Relations with Verizon in Illinois. I have previously
10 provided testimony before the Illinois Commerce Commission. I have been in my current
11 position as President of the Illinois Telecommunications Association (“ITA” or “Association”)
12 since 2011.

14 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND BACKGROUND?**

15 A. Although I am representing myself in today’s hearing, I am employed by the ITA as President of
16 the Association and Secretary of its Board of Directors. The ITA has done business in Illinois
17 since 1905, and the mission of the Association is to create a forum for its members to identify
18 and to examine issues of importance; to foster collaboration among its members; and to
19 present on behalf of the telecommunications industry a unified position on matters of
20 importance before the regulatory and legislative bodies of Illinois.

22 The Association consists of over 150 members from diverse areas of the telecommunications
23 industry, including incumbent local exchange providers, other certificated telecommunications

24 providers, wireless providers, equipment manufacturers, service providers and consultants to
25 the telecommunications industry. The Association provides regulatory support, legislative
26 support and industry education for its member companies, and in various capacities has been
27 active in representation at the ICC for decades. As President, I am responsible for day-to-day
28 operations of the Association.

29
30 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

31 A. I have a personal interest and knowledge in telecommunications policy – in general and as it
32 specifically relates to the development and adoption of Next Generation 9-1-1 service in Illinois.
33 I am filing this testimony to establish that Jackson County’s Next Generation 9-1-1 proposal
34 should not create any precedents or requirements for other Next Generation 9-1-1 solutions in
35 Illinois that may be proposed in the future.

36
37 **Q. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH JACKSON COUNTY’S FILING IN THIS PROCEEDING?**
38

39 A. Yes. I have generally reviewed Jackson County’s Petition to Modify its 9-1-1 System Provider
40 Plan and the Plan Narrative filed with that Petition.

41
42 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON THAT PROPOSAL?**

43 A. No. I do not intend to comment on the merits of that particular proposal.
44

45 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE ADOPTION OF NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1**
46 **TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE 9-1-1 SERVICES?**
47

48 A. Yes. The transition from existing voice Time Division Multiplexing (“TDM”) networks to all
49 Internet Protocol (“IP”) networks is an industry trend that is occurring at an accelerated pace.¹
50 The FCC has recognized that the Next Generation 9-1-1 technology will become more
51 widespread in the future and has been giving the issue fairly close attention.² Illinois has
52 identified the importance of competition in the provision of 9-1-1 services in at least two ways:
53 First, the Legislature has created a certification process for new 9-1-1 system providers in
54 section 13-900 of the PUA and authorized a process for regional pilot plans for Next Generation
55 9-1-1 in section 11 of the Emergency Telephone System Act. Second, the Commission updated
56 Part 725 of its Rules – “Standards of Service Applicable to 9-1-1 Emergency Systems” – in order
57 to recognize the potential for transition from TDM to IP next generation 9-1-1 networks. Given
58 industry-wide trends and regulatory recognition of those trends, it is not surprising to see a
59 proposal in Illinois to provide enhanced 9-1-1 voice, video, data and text messaging services.
60 In this proceeding, the Commission is being asked to approve the first deployment of Next
61 Generation 9-1-1 service in Illinois. The Commission should closely examine the proposal to
62 make sure that it adequately protects the public interest in maintaining safe and reliable
63 emergency response capabilities for police, fire and other emergency response services. In this
64 case, Jackson County and NG 9-1-1, Inc., describe an arrangement where NG 9-1-1 Inc., is the
65 system provider and has various arrangements with other providers (e.g., Intrado, Clearwave
66 and Frontier) to make the system work. The Commission should recognize that the service
67 arrangements between NG 9-1-1, Inc., and the other providers, and the particular contract
68 between NG 9-1-1, Inc., and the Jackson County ETSB, are unique to Jackson County and do not

¹ *In the Matter of Technology Transitions*, Order, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, GN Docket No. 13-5 (rel. Jan. 31, 2014) at ¶¶ 2-3; 14-18.

69 represent a model of how future Next Generation 9-1-1 networks should be established in
70 Illinois. In an emerging 9-1-1 competitive service market, the Commission should expect
71 different transport arrangements, different database arrangements and potentially different
72 business arrangements. NG 9-1-1, Inc., and Jackson County offer one possible method of
73 interfacing with existing carriers and their customers. Consideration of this proposal should not
74 foreclose the development of other options in the future.
75

76 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDATION?**

77 I recommend the Commission promote competition in the provision of 9-1-1 services by
78 considering Next Generation 9-1-1 arrangements that insure a safe 9-1-1 system for the citizens
79 of Illinois. If the Commission approves the Plan Modification requested by Jackson County, it
80 should explicitly state in its order that its approval does not establish any precedent or
81 requirements for other Next Generation 9-1-1 solutions in Illinois and that the Commission
82 remains open to considering other alternative arrangements that may be proposed in the
83 future.
84

85 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

86 **A.** Yes.

² Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment, *Notice of Inquiry*, PS Docket No. 10-255, 25 FCC Rcd 17869 (rel. Dec. 21, 2010).